

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 519 without my signature.

I am unable to support this measure because, unlike Proposition 36, this bill would allow violent juvenile offenders to participate in drug diversion programs if they meet certain criteria. When the voters of this State approved Proposition 36, the voters intended that it apply only to those individuals that did not have prior serious or violent offenses.

Existing law currently allows the Youth Authority Board to order community drug treatment programs for wards on parole, in lieu of confinement. My Administration will continue to work with the California Youth Authority and the Youth Authority Board to ensure that wards placed in their care receive the most appropriate services and placements.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger